United Nations A/C.3/62/L.1

General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee will be issued in document A/C.3/62/1. Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (see A/62/100 and Add.1).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, Assembly decision 61/532 on the programme of work of the Third Committee for the sixty-second session, the provisional agenda of the sixty-second session (A/62/150), relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee, the availability of documentation and past experience in the utilization of conference services.

Question time and interactive dialogues and debates

3. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee and pursuant to paragraphs 3 (c) and (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, immediately following the introduction of reports by executive heads and senior members of the Secretariat at the beginning of each debate, interactive debates and "question time" will be held with heads of departments and offices, representatives of the Secretary-General, special rapporteurs and other special mechanisms as part of the formal proceedings of the Committee. Delegations are invited to participate actively in these dialogues with questions and unscripted comments. The general discussion under each agenda item or cluster of agenda items is to follow the "question time" with senior officials of the United Nations.

Statements

4. The list of speakers for the general discussion on agenda items allocated to the Third Committee will be opened on Monday, 24 September 2007.

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5. In accordance with the established practice of the Committee, statements made during the general discussion under each agenda item or cluster of agenda items will be limited to 7 minutes, and to 15 minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of delegations. Statements of Secretariat officials will be limited to 7 minutes, with the exception of oral reports.

6. Under item 72 of the provisional agenda, "Promotion and protection of human rights", delegations may make one statement under sub-item (a) and one statement under sub-item (d), which are to be discussed sequentially. Under sub-items (b), (c) and (e), which are to be considered jointly, delegations may make two separate statements, but they should not make two statements on any one of those sub-items.

7. Under items 70, "Elimination of racism and racial discrimination" and 71, "Right of peoples to self-determination", which are to be discussed jointly, delegations may also make two separate statements.

8. In accordance with previous decisions of the General Assembly, delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the consideration of the relevant agenda item on that day, or at the conclusion of the consideration of the item, if that is sooner. The first statement should be limited to 5 minutes and the second, if any, to 3 minutes.

List of documents

9. Attention is drawn to the addendum to the present note (A/C.3/62/L.1/Add.1), which will list the documentation submitted under each of the agenda items allocated to the Third Committee.

Conference facilities and meetings arrangements

10. Unless otherwise specified, official meetings of the Committee will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. The General Assembly has stressed that a punctual start of meetings is critical to the efficient utilization of services allocated to the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice, it is proposed that rule 108 of the Committee's rules of procedure be waived with respect to the quorum to declare a meeting open.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

11. In paragraph 4 (c) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 58/316, the Assembly decided that the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" should be considered in its entirety in plenary meeting. Subsequently it was clarified that, in implementing that decision, the relevant parts of chapter I of the report of the Economic and Social Council that relate to agenda items allocated to the Main Committees would be considered by the Committee concerned (see A/59/250/Add.1 and A/C.3/59/1/Add.2).

Report of the Human Rights Council

12. Bearing in mind rule 97 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, should the Assembly decide to allocate item 67 of its provisional agenda, "Report of the Human Rights Council", to the Third Committee, the Committee would consider the item on 5 and 6 November.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

13. Bearing in mind the number of meetings allocated to the Third Committee, a target date of 29 November has been set for the conclusion of its work. The Committee will, however, endeavour to conclude its work earlier, if possible, by 21 November.

Annex

Draft programme of work of the Third Committee

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Week of 8-12 October		
Monday, 8 October		
10 a.m.		Organizational matters, followed by introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 64	**Social development**
		(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
		(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
		(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 64
3 p.m.	**Item 64**	General discussion (*Continued*)
Tuesday, 9 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 64**	General discussion (*Continued*)
Wednesday, 10 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 64**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 64
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 108	**Crime prevention and criminal justice**
	Item 109	**International drug control**
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 108 and 109
Thursday, 11 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 108 and 109**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 108 and 109
Friday, 12 October		
		United Nations holiday (Eid Al-Fitr)

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Week of 15-19 October		
Monday, 15 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 65	**Advancement of women**
		(a) Advancement of women
		(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 65
Tuesday, 16 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 65**	General discussion (*Continued*)
Wednesday, 17 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 65**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 65
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 68	**Promotion and protection of the rights of children**
		(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children
		(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 68
Thursday, 18 October		
10 a.m.	**Item 68**	General discussion (*Continued*)
3 p.m.		Action on proposals, followed by
	Item 68	General discussion (*Continued*)
Friday, 19 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 68**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 68
Week of 22-26 October		
Monday, 22 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
	Item 69	**Indigenous issues**
		(a) Indigenous issues
		(b) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
1 p.m.		Closure of list of speakers on item 69
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 69
Tuesday, 23 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 72	**(a) Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments**, followed by introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 72	**(d) Promotion and protection of human rights: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action**
1 p.m.		Closure of list of speakers on items 72 (a) and 72 (d)
3 p.m.	**Item 72 (d)**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 72 (a) and 72 (d)
Wednesday, 24 October		
10 a.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 72	**Promotion and protection of human rights**
		(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms
		(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives
		(e) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
1 p.m.		Closure of list of speakers on items 72 (b), (c) and (e)
3 p.m.	**Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/ independent experts
Thursday, 25 October		
10 a.m.	**Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/ independent experts

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
3 p.m.		Deadline for action on proposals under items 60, 64, 65, 68, 69, 108 and 109, followed by dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/independent experts
Friday, 26 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/ independent experts
Week of 29 October-2 November		
Monday, 29 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)**	Dialogue with special rapporteurs/special representatives/ independent experts
Tuesday, 30 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)**	General discussion (*Resumed*)
Wednesday, 31 October		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)**	General discussion (*Continued*)
Thursday, 1 November		
10 a.m.	**Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)**	General discussion (*Continued*)
3 p.m.		Action on draft proposals, followed by
	Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)	General discussion (*Continued*)
Friday, 2 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Items 72 (b), (c) and (e)**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 72 (b), (c) and (e)
Week of 5-9 November		
Monday, 5 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 67	**Report of the Human Rights Council**
1 p.m.		Closure of list of speakers on item 67

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Tuesday, 6 November		
10 a.m.	**Item 67**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
3 p.m.		Informal consultations
Wednesday, 7 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 70	**Elimination of racism and racial discrimination**
		(a) Elimination of racism and racial discrimination
		(b) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
	Item 71	**Right of peoples to self-determination**
1 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on items 70 and 71
Thursday, 8 November		
10 a.m.	**Items 70 and 71**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
1 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on items 70 and 71
3 p.m.		Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:
	Item 44	**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions**
6 p.m.		Closure of the list of speakers on item 44
Friday, 9 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	**Item 44**	General discussion (*Concluded*)
6 p.m.		Deadline for submission of proposals on item 44
Week of 12-16 November		
Monday, 12 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Informal consultations
Tuesday, 13 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Informal consultations
Wednesday, 14 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Thursday, 15 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals

Date/time	*Agenda item/programme*	
Friday, 16 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Informal consultations
Week of 19-23 November		
Monday, 19 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Tuesday, 20 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Wednesday, 21 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Thursday, 22 November		
		United Nations holiday
Friday, 23 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Informal consultations
Week of 26-30 November		
Monday, 26 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Informal consultations
Tuesday, 27 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Wednesday, 28 November		
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Action on proposals
Thursday, 29 November		
10 a.m.		Action on outstanding proposals
	Item 123	**Revitalization of the General Assembly**[a]
		Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee

[a] The agenda item is to be allocated to the Third Committee for the sole purpose of considering and taking action on the tentative programme of work of the Committee for the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.